

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2583

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC (DEPUTY SECRETARY'S EAST ASIAN VISIT)

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH'S EAST ASIAN TRIP-FEBRUARY/MARCH  
1974-INTELLIGENCE

REF: STATE 028441

1. (A) CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DOES NOT INDICATE ANY PLANNED DEMONSTRATIONS, PROTESTS, RIOTS OR OTHER CIVIL DISORDERS EXPECTED WITHIN THE TIME FRAME OF THE VISIT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE. POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL PRACHUAB TOLD AMBASSADOR AND DCM FEBRUARY 13 HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTY. HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ANY HIGH LEVEL USG OFFICIALS EXISTS, PARTICULARLY WHEN VISIT IS GIVEN ADVANCE PUBLICITY. DEMONSTRATIONS COULD ALSO RESULT IF IN THE INTERIM SOCIAL OR POLITICAL SITUATIONS OCCUR WHICH PROVIDE EITHER STUDENT GROUPS, OR LEFTIST ELEMENTS ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE STUDENT GROUPS, A CAUSE TO MOBILIZE STUDENT ACTIVITY. THESE FACTORS COULD STIMULATE A PROTEST AGAINST THE USG IN GENERAL AND SPECIFICALLY AGAINST PROMINENT USG OFFICIALS. SUCH ACTIVITY COULD BE GENERATED ON SHORT NOTICE, CERTAINLY WITHIN A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR TIME FRAME., AND UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES EVEN LESS.

2. (B) DURING THE PAST THIRTY DAYS THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED REDUCTION IN STUDENT PROTESTS, AT LEAST IN THE BANGKOK AREA. THERE HAS BEEN SOME INDICATION THAT THE  
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STUDENT GROUPS ARE LOSING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MANY OF THEIR PROTESTS ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, GIVEN WHAT STUDENT

GROUPS OR PUBLIC PROTEST GROUPS MIGHT CONSIDER PROVOCATION EITHER COULD BE MOBILIZED WITH LITTLE ADVANCE WARNING. SOME PREVIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE DEVELOPED WITH VERY LITTLE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION.

THERE ARE NO KNOWN URBAN CT UNITS FUNCTIONING IN THIS AREA. ACTIVITIES BY SUCH GROUPS TO DATE HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO RURAL AREAS SO THE POSSIBILITY OF THREAT POSED BY SUCH GROUPS IS MINIMAL. RADICAL STUDENT GROUPS (SUCH AS THE THAI PATRIOTS OR BLACK OCTOBER GROUP) WHICH BEGAN TO EMERGE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OCTOBER INSURRECTION HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED AS VIABLE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE ARE NOT FUNCTIONAL.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS, I.E. PALESTINIAN LIBERATION GROUP OR BLACK SEPTEMBER ORGANIZATION, AND ALLIED ARAB FACTIONS, HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE CAPABILITY TO FUNCTION IN THIS GENERAL AREA BUT TO DATE WE HAVE NOT IDENTIFIED ANY ELEMENTS OPERATING WITHIN THAILAND AND THE NORMAL SCREENING PROCESSES HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO MONITOR ANY ATTEMPTED INFILTRATION.

THE JAPANESE RED ARMY WHICH HAS WORKED WITH THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION GROUP, AND WHICH IS A VIABLE AND WELL ESTABLISHED TERRORIST GROUP IN JAPAN, WOULD HAVE EASIER ENTRY INTO THAILAND AND WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO DETECT AND MONITOR DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF JAPANESE VISITORS. FURTHERMORE, THAI IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES DO NOT HAVE A GOOD CAPABILITY TO SCREEN FOR THE JAPANESE RED ARMY PERSONNEL. TO DATE, ONLY A SMALL NUMBER APPEAR ON OUR WATCH LIST. THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND THE PROCEDURES IN EFFECT ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO ADEQUATELY MONITOR THE POSSIBILITY OF THE JAPANESE TERRORISTS MOVING INTO THIS AREA TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT IF THEY SO WISH.

3. (C) THERE ARE NO SUSPECT INDIVIDUALS WHOSE LOCATIONS AND ACTIVITIES ARE KNOWN TO US AT THIS TIME.

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4. (D) OTHER SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS:

PREVIOUS DISTURBANCES INDICATE THAT THE RTG'S ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO CONTROL DEMONSTRATIONS IS, AT BEST, MARGINAL. DURING PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S VISIT THE STUDENTS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE ROYAL THAI POLICE, PLAYED A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE IN CONTROLLING AND MARSHALING THE DEMONSTRATIONS. THESE DEMONSTRATIONS HAD BEEN PLANNED WELL IN ADVANCE AND APPARENTLY THE STUDENTS AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT WERE VERY ANXIOUS THAT THEY BE PEACEFUL.

HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT THAT A LARGE DEMONSTRATION DEVELOPED AND THE STUDENTS WERE NOT INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH THE ROYAL THAI AUTHORITIES THE POLICE MOST LIKELY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO INSURE CONTROL OF THE DEMONSTRATORS.

ALTHOUGH THE POLICE ELEMENTS HAVE BEGUN TO RECOVER FROM THE GENERAL DEMORALIZATION FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER INSURRECTION, THEY ARE STILL NOT FULLY FUNCTIONAL AND THEIR INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO INSURE CONTROL OF ANY LARGE SCALE ANTI-USG DEMONSTRATION.

GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DEP SEC VISIT: WITHIN RECENT WEEKS BANGKOK HAS RECEIVED A SPATE OF RANKING VISITORS INCLUDING PRIME MINISTERS TANAKA AND WHITLAM, THE SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE INGERSOLL. THE NEWSPAPERS ARE STILL PREOCCUPIED WITH PREVIOUS VISITORS AND HAVE NOT YET FOCUSED ON THE RUSH VISIT. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "NATION", HOWEVER, HAS COMMENTED THAT THE RUSH VISIT IS ONE IN A STRING OF VIP TOURS COMING "TO CASE" THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S DURABILITY. "WHAT WE WANT TO TELL THE VISITING DIGNITARIES, AS WELL AS THE EMBASSIES FILING CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS, IS THAT THAILAND HAS CROSSED A MAJOR HURDLE AND THAT IT IS NOW NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE FOR A MILITARY REGIME TO TAKE OVER THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY", THE FEBRUARY 11TH EDITORIAL CAUTIONED.

KINTNER

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